



House Republican Leaders Vow Immediate Action to Strengthen Border Security

September 7, 2006

After holding more than twenty border security field hearings, House Republican Leaders today announced that they will take action in September to strengthen our nation's border security. Next week, the leaders will convene a House Policy Committee meeting where they will hear specific recommendations from committee chairmen on legislative actions that can be taken this month that will help shore up our nation's border security and strengthen enforcement of existing immigration laws.

Attached below are statements from the House leaders on this announcement:

House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL)

"Border security is a top priority of House Republicans. Our border is a sieve. We're at war, and we must act like it. Our chairmen who held hearings on border security and the Senate's amnesty bill did a great job this summer talking to the experts and American citizens about how to solve this problem. After meeting with the Chairmen today, we agreed that we cannot support the Senate Reid-Kennedy amnesty bill. This Democrat immigration bill wouldn't secure the border; it would erase it."

"House Republicans believe that Congress has a unique opportunity to strengthen our borders. I have asked Policy Committee Chairman Adam Putnam to hold a forum next week where our Chairmen will present what they learned from their hearings and concrete steps to secure the border. We will take many of these recommendations and move quickly to pass border security legislation in the next few weeks. Congress cannot wait until next year to move on this issue. The American people expect us to tackle this problem and solve it."

Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH)

“It was important to hear directly from our committee chairmen about the border security hearings held over August and how we can best address the immediate need to secure America’s borders. The hearings we held over the last two months demonstrated the Reid-Kennedy Democrat bill would undermine, rather than strengthen, our border security.

“Republicans will take immediate action to put legislation on the President’s desk that fulfills our promise to strengthen our border security by providing more border patrol agents, enhancing enforcement, building more fencing, and increasing surveillance. Republicans will vote on these reforms before adjournment and work to send them to the President’s desk for his signature.”

Majority Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO)

“Policy Committee Chairman Adam Putnam will convene a hearing next week during which our committee chairmen will speak directly about the border security field hearings they held across the country last month.

“Their findings will help us craft further action to secure our borders with more border patrol agents, more fencing, enhanced enforcement, and increased surveillance.

“The House leadership is committed to sending legislation to the president’s desk before October 1.”

House Republican Conference Chair Deborah Pryce (R-OH)

“Over the past month, House Republicans have traveled around the country, examining the issue of border security and talking to the people who deal with the problem of illegal immigration every day.

“We learned a lot about our nation’s border security challenges and heard from the people on the front lines about the new problems the Reid-Kennedy immigration bill would create. The one thing we heard from the American people in every forum was that Congress must take action to improve border security now – and that is exactly what we will do.

“Next week, House leaders will convene a House Policy Committee meeting with these chairmen to hear their specific recommendations of legislative steps that can and should be taken this year to improve border security. We will then take action to get these measures to the president’s desk so he can sign them into law. Our nation is threatened every day by lax border security and immigration enforcement – and we must take action now to secure our borders and restore respect for our laws.”

House Republican Policy Committee Chairman Adam Putnam (R-FL)

“House Republicans held 22 hearings in 13 states on the border and in the heartland to learn firsthand the deficiencies of our border security system. By listening to what was learned at these field hearings, the Policy Committee can develop the common principles that are shared in the Republican Conference and offer a proposal to give America the tools needed to secure its borders.”

“I applaud Speaker Hastert and Majority Leader Boehner for their commitment to listening to our members and learning from the wisdom gained from these field hearings. Our constituents are demanding that action be taken now to ensure the safety and security of our borders, and this forum will result in action that does just that.”

www.gop.gov/bordersecurity

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